



Introduction

“Leadership now, and into the next century, will depend on meeting challenges as a team. It will involve strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones — we want to continue to build trust and do the right thing!”

— Sherri W. Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security

The mission of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) is to clean up environmental contamination at current and former Department of Defense (DoD) installations. The program’s goal is to clean up hazardous substances associated with past DoD activities. The program’s primary objectives are to minimize the risk to human health and the environment, restore contaminated sites to productive use, and build trust with our stakeholders. In addition, at Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations, the objective is to expedite environmental response actions to facilitate transfer or lease of BRAC property to local communities for reuse. This report highlights DoD’s progress in fiscal year 1998 (FY98) and its plans and goals for each aspect of environmental restoration for the future.

The military components and agencies—the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, and Defense Threat Reduction Agency—execute DoD’s environmental cleanup program. The report describes the notable progress made in protecting the environment, U.S. military members and their families, and local communities from contaminants resulting from past DoD practices. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program is ongoing at 1,719 active and BRAC installations and 2,689 eligible Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) properties, which collectively contain 27,530 sites. In FY98, DoD performed environmental restoration at 10,019 of these sites and FUDS properties.

DoD continued to focus on partnering and cost-effective, timely cleanups as the top priorities for 1998. Partnerships with stakeholders, based on mutual trust and cooperation, are essential to the continued success of the cleanup program. Last year, a landmark agreement between DoD and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania broke new ground both in partnering and in streamlining cleanups. The voluntary cleanup agreement created a comprehensive plan for addressing and cleaning up many defense sites in the Commonwealth earlier than originally planned. DoD has made it a national priority to engage in discussions with other states, using this agreement as a model for future agreements. DoD believes the fundamental advantage of this agreement is its structure, which provides stability in funding and the pace of program accomplishment. This predictability will allow all parties to the agreement to be more effective and efficient.

We believe that by sharing information and working directly with our stakeholders, we can *build trust by doing the right thing*. Ongoing DoD initiatives to cultivate working relationships with regulators and communities are maturing and producing real results. DoD has forged cooperative relationships with 50 states and territories

using Defense and State Memorandums of Agreement. Through these agreements, DoD reimburses states for the regulatory oversight they provide at defense installations and properties. On the community level, formation of, and active cooperation with, Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) continue. These boards involve many stakeholders, who address cleanup issues of concern to the installations and surrounding communities.

DoD continues to pursue initiatives to refine and streamline cleanup activities. To manage their cleanup efforts, active and closing installations use management action plans and BRAC Cleanup Plans, respectively, to frame and describe their cleanup activities by site. These plans include input from regulators and from the communities around the DoD property. The RAB provides the vehicle for this dialogue. In addition, DoD uses peer review panels in many cases to ensure the selection of protective, cost-effective remedies. Through these panels, peer reviewers (including environmental remediation experts) consider the available technologies and life-cycle cost to recommend the best remedy for a site.

Remediation technology continues to be a major emphasis of the DoD cleanup program. This report addresses the use of innovative technologies and their role in the remediation process. The discussion includes their environmental and cost benefits, uses, and effectiveness.

New challenges for the cleanup program continue to emerge as environmental regulations and policies evolve. DoD realizes it must continually address these changes to preserve and sustain the public's trust in DoD's commitment to fulfilling its environmental obligations. To meet these challenges and cultivate public trust, DoD is improving its communication and coordination across the Department as the program matures. DoD and the military components have created Internet sites with links to other sites across DoD, sites at other federal and state regulatory agencies, and additional environmental sites that might be of interest. This web of resources encourages parties to access information on defense policies, programs, and initiatives for environmental restoration.

This report provides the details of the technical and financial status of the cleanup program (as of the end of FY98) and outlines plans and funding requirements for further progress. The report shows planned versus achieved progress, program goals, and the performance measures used to evaluate progress, and includes projections for future performance. In addition, this report presents information on any delays in property transfers caused by lead-based paint sampling, cost recovery from other responsible parties, and land use plans at DoD installations.

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security), in conjunction with the Military Departments and the Defense Logistics Agency, has prepared this report to satisfy congressionally mandated requirements.